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# A Scheme for Establishing a Royal Army Society for each County and Great City, in order to Improve the Status of the British Soldier on his Return to Civil Life

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Friday, March 3, 1893.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL W. H. GOODENOUGH, C.B., R.A., Member  
of Council, in the Chair.

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A SCHEME FOR ESTABLISHING A ROYAL ARMY  
SOCIETY FOR EACH COUNTY AND GREAT CITY, IN  
ORDER TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF THE BRITISH  
SOLDIER ON HIS RETURN TO CIVIL LIFE.

By Commander WALLACE B. MCHARDY, R.N., Chief Constable of  
Lanarkshire.

THE subject which I have to bring under your consideration is—

“A scheme for establishing a Royal Army Society for each county and great city,<sup>1</sup> in order to improve the status of the British soldier on his return to civil life.”

By way of preface, and to make good, as it were, my own *locus standi* on the present occasion, I should state that I was asked by Lord Ruthven, who is the Chairman of the Committee, in Lanarkshire, which is actively promoting this Society, if I would, as one of that committee, and as a member of the Royal United Service Institution, obtain permission from the Council to read a paper in this theatre, explanatory of the Society, its aims, constitution, and mode of working, as our committee very rightly thought that this was the most fitting place in which to introduce the Society to the notice of Her Majesty's army, and to have the whole question fully discussed in all its bearings, in order to obtain that healthy criticism, “light and leading,” which are so essential to guide our steps aright in the immediate future.

Whenever the simple pronoun “I” is introduced it signifies my own personal views or opinions, which may or may not be held by others of the committee.

When launching a new society, however laudable and patriotic its aims may be, it is very necessary to consider whether the new agency is absolutely required, and whether it will prove helpful, hurtful, or harmless to existing societies already working in the same field for other or for more or less similar objects.

We intend to show that such a Society as the one we are promoting is required, and at the close of this paper, when the scheme has

<sup>1</sup> By “great city,” is meant a city having a population of 200,000 inhabitants.

been read, and its working explained, we shall draw attention to the fact that the Royal Army Society cannot possibly prove otherwise than helpful to every society, agency, or individual engaged in any work tending to benefit the British soldier.

To avoid any possible misconception, it may be well to at once emphasize the fact that the Royal Army Society will not be, in any sense whatever, a "charitable society," but, if I may borrow a Parliamentary term, it may be described as "An enabling society to promote self-help," for it is designed merely to create and maintain the necessary machinery to enable every good and faithful soldier, by his own merit, with the co-operation of his comrades and self-help, to fight the battle of life successfully, in a fair field, without outside favour or charity.

By order of H.R.H. the Commander-in-Chief, attention was recently directed to the duty of facilitating the employment of our Reserve and time-expired soldiers on their return to civil life, and for this object (similarly to many other counties) Lanarkshire very readily responded to the call, and formed an association on the lines suggested by the military authorities. The executive committee were anxious to facilitate the employment of soldiers by fair competition in the labour market, rather than by asking it as a favour from employers. We recognised that this was the only course that held out any prospect of a permanent and reliable solution of the difficulty, and, moreover, that it was due to H.M. army that the independent status of its members should not be in the smallest degree compromised, either with employers or fellow-workmen, by any action that was taken by the committee.

I am fully satisfied that in most instances the heads of large firms and the principal employers of labour are too much occupied with other business to allow of their exercising any *continuous* and effective influence in favour of men from the army, and I believe that any scheme which mainly depends on the *constant active* co-operation of the larger employers will prove a failure, for it will be found that the engagement and entry of the men in many large works and other establishments rests mainly in the hands of sub-managers, foremen, overseers, *contractors*, or others; and, in point of fact, in order to secure effective assistance, it is necessary to get into close connection with many comparatively less known subordinate officials, and to rely in great measure on those soldiers who attain to these positions of influence, and who may be able and willing to help their comrades.

One of the first things that we endeavoured to ascertain was, where are the bulk of our reserve or discharged soldiers, and where have they met with most success? Now, this is one of the many things that it almost passes the wit of man to discover.

For all army representative purposes, the hundreds! aye, the thousands! or ten thousands! of successful and well-to-do soldiers in civil life are lost to view. Their meritorious lives reflect no apparent credit on the honourable profession in which they have been schooled, and to which profession they probably owe, in great measure, their success. But, unfortunately, the insignificant minority of unemployed

soldiers are always in evidence, for, like the supernumeraries in a stage play, the less fortunate and the undeserving apparently multiply their numbers indefinitely by continuous reappearance.

The Corps of Commissionaires has, in the few cities where they are established, done much to maintain the credit of the British soldier; but, as they retain a *quasi*-military organization, they are not generally taken as fully representative of the value of the soldier when in ordinary civil employ.

But the Corps of Commissionaires affords, at least, some evidence that, if the soldier discharges faithfully and well even the most ordinary duties in civil life, he may (provided he is known to have served well as a soldier) always count with certainty on being respected and held in favour quite beyond what is usually accorded to men in the same civil vocation or situation.

The Royal Army Society hopes to indicate and identify every good soldier for his whole life, so that he may be held in the same favour as the Commissionaires and others that are now known.

We were led to reflect on the circumstances in which many a promising and deserving young soldier must find himself when discharged from his profession to start life anew at 24 or 25 years of age.

His habits of living and his aims in life having been greatly modified by the years spent in the army, it is as likely as not that he may have few ideas in common even with his own kindred. If gifted with ordinary common sense, and the desire to get on in the world, this young soldier will have made up his mind (possibly before leaving India) that on his discharge, after spending a short holiday with his old parents, he will endeavour to get employed at some particular branch of industry for which he has a fancy, and which offers some prospect of a fair return for his labour.

With a few pounds of ready cash, he may think it a wise course to visit some of the larger centres of this particular industry, in order to choose the locality and firm that apparently offer the best opening, and he sets out on this errand; but when he enters these towns, being an utter stranger and knowing no one, he will be comparatively lost, and unable to push his enquiries profitably. There may be quite close at hand comrades from his own regiment who are settled down in good employment, but he has no means available for discovering the fact. He will very possibly pass soldiers in the streets who are well qualified and would be most willing to give him every information if he asked it, but there is nothing to assist mutual identification. How different would be his circumstances if he could recognise in every locality each one who had a record of good army service—if he could be sure that in every part of the United Kingdom, merely from the fact that he had been a good soldier, he would be almost certain of readily meeting with friendly advice and information from his army brethren. How much expense, how many needless disappointments, and perhaps thoughtless, but no less painful and dispiriting, rebuffs might he not be spared, if he could only get hold of any, well-to-do soldier, who, being resident in the place, knew something of the

locality and people. Can any one doubt that the case that is here so very imperfectly pictured to you is typical of the experiences of hundreds of deserving young soldiers every year? Mark you, we are not now considering the case of the ne'er-do-weel, or less deserving soldier—for, candidly speaking, we take no very special interest in him—but the case before you is one of those manly, self-reliant young fellows who form the great bulk of H.M. army.

It may perhaps suffice to state here that, on considering fully these and many other disadvantages which the young and deserving soldier must now have to contend with in civil life, we were convinced that nearly all the more serious difficulties would be either wholly removed or easily overcome if adequate means were devised for the ready recognition and identification of every good and deserving soldier after he is absorbed into civil life.

There seems to be no more effective and appropriate mode of securing recognition than an approved ribbon or emblem granted under Royal authority and protected by statute.

This ribbon or emblem is the keystone of the entire scheme for establishing a Royal Army Society. At first it must occur to many (as it did to ourselves) that if a ribbon or other emblem was expedient and requisite for this purpose, it would be granted by Her Majesty after consulting her military advisers, and dealt with exactly as in the case of other military ribbons and decorations.

But with regard to this ribbon or emblem, there are two special features that must be very carefully considered:—

First.—To be useful and effective for the purpose it is intended for, it must be thoroughly popular and very generally worn by all to whom it is granted; consequently there must be no ground for a shadow of suspicion on the part of soldiers that it is a trick or clever dodge of the War Office, in order that they may ear-mark the time-expired soldier for any ulterior object.

Second.—This ribbon or emblem should be equivalent to a certificate or strong recommendation of character, and therefore it will require to be very strictly and honourably safeguarded by some highly-placed and trusted authority who can be safely charged by Her Majesty with this delicate and responsible duty.

Feature No. 1 suggested the conception of a Royal Army Society which shall establish a kind of military freemasonry amongst soldiers in civil life, and which would be wholly dissociated from all connection with the military departments, and so organized that only members voluntarily enrolling themselves after their discharge to civil life will acquire the privilege of using *the sign*, that is, wearing the ribbon or emblem. In order that the work of the Royal Army Society, when thus voluntarily established, shall be confined to wise and proper channels, and to guarantee to Her Majesty's Government adequate powers for supervision and control, it has been deemed necessary to suggest that the government of the Society may be exercised under the authority of and subject to the supervision of Her Majesty's Privy Council.

Feature No. 2 naturally points to the Lord Lieutenant and the

County Lieutenancy, on account of their long and honourable connection with the local military forces, being the proper authority to appoint as the Governor and Deputy-Governors in each county; also, in the absence of any identical body existing in great cities, the Mayor or Provost and the ex-Mayors or ex-Provosts are named as the Governors and Deputy-Governors. By having the foregoing as the governing body of the Royal Army Society in each county and great city we believe that we should secure an exalted and well-informed *permanent* administration, armed with great local knowledge and influence, and one that would command the confidence of both the army and the people.

It appears necessary to state very distinctly that no one connected with the Royal Army Society will be allowed the privilege of wearing the ribbon or emblem unless he is qualified by good and faithful army service. The Governors, Deputy-Governors, and others connected with the Society will not wear the ribbon unless they possess the required qualification by army service.

We consider that it will be very important for the success of the work of this Society that all officers shall become members, and make a general practice of wearing the ribbon when not in military uniform.

As the wearing of a military ribbon *at all times when in plain clothes* may, at first, strike many as being a novel suggestion, there is, we fear, a very serious risk that the mention of it will rather excite ridicule and be treated by many officers with disfavour. Well, we fully recognise, and in some measure we sympathize, with this view, but, after the laughing is over, and when jests have run their course, we ask for calm reflection, and we have every hope and assurance that second thoughts will nullify the first hastily-conceived impression.

Every army officer is proud of his glorious profession, and wearing the ribbon will simply be an acknowledgment of this fact. If every officer wears an identical ribbon there can be no appearance of swagger or bounce, as all officers will be alike in this respect. Officers now frequently make a practice of wearing fancy regimental ribbons on straw hats, and they also use regimental neckties, and, this being the case, what reasonable objection can there be to wearing a small piece of ribbon granted by Her Majesty in order to assist in promoting the welfare of her deserving short service soldiers on their return to civil life?

We believe that the Royal Army Society ribbon may, by illustrious example, become universally popular amongst all army men, and we hope that in Lanarkshire, at many big shooting parties next autumn, the ribbon will be very much in evidence amongst sportsmen, game-keepers, and beaters; and that the first thing to attract the eye and awaken the interest of strangers on their arrival in the county will be the number of railway servants, guards, ticket collectors, and porters, the number of shopmen, cabmen, policemen, club, hotel, and private servants, the number of iron-workers and miners, and people of all classes, that will be wearing the ribbon that Her Majesty may

be graciously pleased to grant to the members of the premier Royal Army Society.

To complete the working machinery of the Royal Army Society, it may be necessary in each county or great city to establish at one or more of the industrial centres of population small agencies or enquiry offices for the use of soldiers engaged in or seeking civil employment.

These may be established generally on a small scale, by renting premises with accommodation for a caretaker and a small reading-room and smoking-room; but in a few cases sleeping accommodation may also be provided, where the men could find clean temporary accommodation at night at a moderate cost; or arrangements could very possibly be made with some of the resident members of the Society to provide any temporary accommodation required—the object being simply to secure economy and comfort for the men seeking employment.

Carefully compiled directories, giving the names, regiments, addresses, and places of employment of all Royal Army Society members in the locality and the neighbouring villages, and containing full information as to the trades and industries, would be kept for reference at each “rendezvous.”

The name “rendezvous” has been selected as the most distinctive and characteristic designation for these agencies, and the word has been for so many years thoroughly anglicized, and it is so familiarly known to the Services, that we do not hesitate to recommend it for adoption by the Royal Army Society.

We must remember and always keep in view that the Royal Army Society is concerned with the work of incorporating and rehabilitating the short service soldier into civil life, and facilitating his absorption into the ranks of the civilian population, where we are confident that deserving soldiers will be welcomed and esteemed.

The soldier in civil employ will be all the better if he keeps wholly separate from the soldier in military service, and, for this reason, we think it will be very necessary to guard against the offices or agencies of the Royal Army Society being associated with those of any institute, lodge, club, guild, or any one of the many existing associations belonging either to civilians or to the army.

By all means let these prosper and spread for their own good objects, but we wish the Royal Army Society to carry out its great and lofty undertaking quite independently of all existing military associations, societies, institutes, guilds, &c.

We intend that the Royal Army Society rendezvous shall be used as a friendly meeting place for all connected with the Society, to promote their intercourse, in order that they may consult, advise, encourage, or assist one another.

By assistance, we do not mean pecuniary or charitable aid, but we refer to those kindly acts of friendship and exercise of influence which every one so highly values. We wish it to be recognised that the most valuable service that can be rendered to the married soldier is to assist his children to get a good start in life, and, by taking a

friendly interest in their welfare, encourage his boys to do him credit. We believe that resident military gentlemen of influence will find great pleasure in visiting these rendezvous frequently (and at stated times occasionally), and they will urge the younger men that, inasmuch as they have been good soldiers, they should, both for their own credit and the credit of the army, continue to prove good citizens; and that on these visits they will, whenever they find occasion, give sound advice, and promise to use their personal influence, if necessary, to assist any old soldier in getting good employment or advancement for himself or his boys.

But it is not only on the good will of military officers that we depend for securing the welfare of our soldiers in civil life; we intend that the Royal Army Society shall afford opportunity to the whole nation to evince their kindly feeling for and on behalf of every *deserving* soldier, and the Society will do this by simply making him known and identifying him with the Royal Army.

We have great faith in the popularity of the good and deserving soldier, and we believe that, with regard to this, all classes among this great military people are thoroughly of one mind.

I believe that our military authorities do not sufficiently recognise the fact that the history of this people for at least the last three centuries proves that we are the greatest military race that the world has ever known.

Lest any of my own Service should take exception to this statement, I may explain that I use the word "military" in its widest sense, and it embraces "all that pertaineth to arms," whether afloat or ashore.

No one knew better than the great genius Bonaparte how wholly inapplicable was his scornful allusion to us as a "nation of shopkeepers." Yet, it would seem that the careless have been ready to accept this as one of the very rare instances of his speaking the whole truth. Had Bonaparte spoken according to his conviction, he might with more truth have said, "A nation of workers, who have all the instincts of soldiers."

Our military instinct and capacity shows itself amongst all classes in their great powers of—

Initiative,  
Conquest,  
Organization, and  
Government;

but, above all, in the Briton's self-command, or true discipline, which he manifests in "love and respect for law and order."

For ample evidence we have only to note—

The work effected and great results achieved by the East India Company.

The colonizing and conquest of what have now become the United States of America (and we know how those of our race and kindred bore themselves in both armies during the rebellion of the Southern States).



The work at this moment making assured progress in Africa.

The Volunteer movement of 1857, and its present capacity for development.

These being all, in the strictest sense, military undertakings which have been initiated and carried through without active Government assistance.

It does not necessarily follow that, because we have not a military form of Government, we are not, and cannot be, a military people.

On the contrary, this is one of the many causes that have given to the British race those habits of self-discipline and self-reliance which have formed our nation into a great military people having a world-wide Empire.

It may now be convenient for you to hear read the concise statement, giving a draft sketch of the aims, constitution, and method of working proposed for the Royal Army Society, as submitted and adopted in Lanarkshire.

#### "ROYAL ARMY SOCIETY, LANARKSHIRE."

*President*—The EARL OF HOME, Lord Lieutenant of Lanarkshire.

*Vice-Presidents*—The DUKE OF HAMILTON AND BRANDON, K.T.

SIR WINDHAM C. ANSTRUTHER, Bart., Vice-Lieutenant of Lanarkshire.

#### *Executive Committee for "Promoting the Society"—*

LORD RETHVEN, Chairman.

JOHN CUNNINGHAME, Esq., of Blairston.

W. ALSTON DYKES, Esq., County Clerk, Lanarkshire.

The Rev. H. M. HAMILTON, D.D., Minister, Hamilton.

LORD HAMILTON OF DALZELL, Convener of Lanarkshire.

SIR WILLIAM HOZIER of Mauldslic, Bart., Ex-Convener of Lanarkshire.

J. C. HOZIER, Esq., M.P. for South Lanarkshire.

SIR SIMON M. LOCKHART, Bart.

Colonel A. H. C. LYNCH, Commanding 26th and 71st Regtl. Districts.

Commander WALLACE McHARDY, R.N., Chief Constable of Lanarkshire.

DARNCLUTH, HAMILTON, N.B.,

13th January, 1893.

1. The Committee of the Reserve and Discharged Soldiers' Association (Lanarkshire), having endeavoured to ascertain the readiest means to ensure that men from the ranks of Her Majesty's army shall obtain suitable employment on their return to civil life, have arrived at the conclusion that the attainment of this very desirable end will be greatly facilitated, and, moreover, that it can only be fully assured, by the formation throughout the United Kingdom of a Royal Army Society for each county and for every great city.

2. The primary aim of every such Society would be, within its local area, to identify and distinguish from all other residents, and at all times, any one who has had the honour of serving for three or more years with a good character in the regular forces of Her Majesty's

army: to promote not only a strong bond of friendship or military brotherhood amongst all its members, both officers and men, but also to foster throughout the public generally a spirit of good will and esteem for all who have thus served with good character in Her Majesty's army.

3. The secondary aim of the Society would be to lead the labouring and industrial classes and all seeking an opening for their sons to form a higher and more accurate estimate of the advantages of the army service, and to bring specially home to their minds not only the immediate benefits offered by a military career to any healthy able-bodied youth, but a conviction of the future good that may be secured to all young men who serve a few years in the ranks of Her Majesty's army, by making it evident to every one how much all deserving army men are respected, how favourably they and their families are circumstanced, and how greatly they and their children are befriended.

4. It may suffice at this time merely to sketch a brief outline of the constitution, scope, and working of such a Society.

5. Under the gracious favour of the Sovereign, the Royal Army Society might be constituted as follows:—

**PRESIDENT OR PATRON.** Her Majesty.

**VICE-PRESIDENTS OR VICE-PATRONS.** The Royal Princes and the Field-Mmarshals. To be appointed at Her Majesty's pleasure.

#### LOCAL GOVERNING BODY.

	IN COUNTIES.	IN GREAT CITIES.
<b>GOVERNOR.</b>	The Lord Lieutenant of the County.	The Mayor or the Provost of a City.
<b>VICE-GOVERNORS.</b>	The Vice-Lieutenant of the County and all resident Peers.	
<b>DEPUTY GOVERNORS.</b>	The Deputy-Lieutenants of the County.	The ex-Mayors or ex-Provosts of a City.
<b>EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.</b>	The Lord Lieutenant. —? Deputy-Lieutenants. —? Members.	The Mayor or Provost. —? ex-Mayors, &c. —? Members.

#### MEMBERS WHO WILL ALL WEAR THE ROYAL ARMY SOCIETY RIBBON.

**MEMBERS—EX OFFICIO.** (Officers and men of all grades.) Every one *serving* in the Regular Forces and resident within the limits of the county or city, or who belongs to the territorial organization of the county or city.

**MEMBERS.** (Officers and men of all grades.) Every one who can show that *he has served* three or more years in Her Majesty's Regular Forces, including the Royal Marine Artillery and Royal Marines; and that he belongs to the Army Reserves, or has retired or left either Service with a good character; and that he is a resident in the county or city, shall, on payment of an entry subscription of 1s., be enrolled as a member of the Royal Army Society (county or city).

## CIVILIANS AND OTHERS WHO GIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

FELLOWS  
AND  
ASSOCIATES  
OF THE SOCIETY.

It is contemplated that many of the public who may be unable to give their time or personal service to Her Majesty's army, volunteers, or any of her defensive forces, might be disposed to seize the opportunity to render financial assistance to the Royal Army Society. In such cases it might be well to recognise donors of a certain "minimum sum" as Fellows of the Society, whilst annual subscribers of a certain sum might be enrolled as Associates.

6. The Royal Army Society would request all its members when not in military uniform to wear, as a distinctive emblem, under all circumstances, at all times, and in all places, one uniform Royal Army Society ribbon (*or badge?*) of such design as Her Majesty may be graciously pleased to approve, and this ribbon would be identical in all counties and cities throughout the kingdom.

7. It may be necessary to obtain from Parliament a Statute to protect the use of this ribbon, enforcing the restrictions on its use by imposing penalties on any one who, not being a duly enrolled member of the Royal Army Society, attempts to wear it or to make use of any counterfeit copy of it.

8. The members of the Society may, however, be expected to prove the most jealous and effective guardians of the ribbon of their Society.

NOTE.—It has been suggested that a ribbon of red and gold might be deemed very suitable, but we do not presume to offer any opinion on such a subject.

9. The Royal Army Society for each county or great city might be formed under one general charter, but each would work as a separate corporation, independently administered by its own Governor, Deputy-Governors, and Executive Council. The establishment of such societies would perfect the idea involved in the territorial arrangements and localization of the army.

10. All rules and bye-laws enacted by the Royal Army Society of any county, or of any great city, for the regulation and management of the Society, to be submitted for approval to Her Majesty's Privy Council, and to be signed by the Lord President of the Privy Council.

11. It is believed that under such a constitution as is here sketched would be found a sure guarantee that the operations of the Royal Army Society can in no way prejudice the discipline of Her Majesty's forces; whilst the care taken to keep it entirely free from all connection with the official military departments would afford the necessary safeguard against any suspicion being entertained amongst those whom it is intended to benefit, that by joining the Society its members would incur any fresh military obligations, or in any way find themselves under military supervision.

12. The foregoing outline thus drafted for the constitution of the Royal Army Society indicates the scope of the Society.

13. It would be essentially a voluntary Society, having for its sole aim the promotion of a general spirit of friendship, military brotherhood, and self-help, throughout all those who serve in Her Majesty's army (regular forces), without distinction of rank or class.

14. All would wear the same emblem, and each one would be animated with the same spirit of love for his Queen, and loyalty to his fellows.

15. Rich and poor, officer and private, high and lowly, could all co-operate in the noble and beneficent work of such a Society, and all would participate in its incalculable benefits.

16. In this great military Empire the emblem that is indicative of good army service must not only appeal to the warm feelings of every military man, but it must attract the eye, and awaken sympathy or emulation in the breast of every man, woman, and child in these lands.

17. The work of the Royal Army Society should, at a time not far distant, embrace every channel that tends to the advancement or betterment of the *social and temporal* well-being of our soldiers in civil life, and that of their families and dependents; and whilst in trustful dependence on Divine guidance, devoting itself to the accomplishments of these great ends, it would, under all circumstances, avoid questions of religious creeds and party politics.

18. It is not possible, and it could serve no useful purpose, to deal at any length with the variety of useful work that this Royal Army Society would gradually overtake and develop, but, in a few lines, reference may be made to its immediate capabilities.

19. Its roll of members, together with its emblem, would at once make known to one another army men living in close neighbourhood, but who at present may be quite ignorant of their special claims to mutual good fellowship.

20. The Royal Army Society ribbon would designate and identify every faithful and good soldier, and it would do this even more effectually than the privilege of retaining their military rank now secures the partial identification of *officers* who have served in Her Majesty's army.

21. The emblem would enable the *esprit de corps* and good feeling of every soldier to exercise its influence in all places and at all times, in the office, factory, iron-work, mine, workshop, market, field, and highway. The general public would form their estimate of the rightful status of the British soldier in civil life from the vast number of respected and well-to-do members of the Royal Army Society, and would not misjudge the whole Service because of the few less fortunate examples that are to be found in it as in all professions and vocations of life.

22. The Royal Army Society would actively encourage and promote habits of thrift and provident forethought amongst its members, and for this purpose it would, as far as possible, make readily available to its members the many existing well-established friendly and provident or other societies. The principle on which the Society would work in this direction would be *not to create new*

*machinery, but to make the utmost use, on the most favourable basis for its members, of all the agencies at present existing for the benefit and aid of the industrial or military classes, thus economizing its own funds while knitting the soldiers more closely to all classes, and securing at the minimum rate due provision in cases of sickness, death, or loss of employment.*

23. Convenient, but not necessarily large, premises could be rented in all central townships, to be called the Royal Army Society Rendezvous. Such premises might, in most cases, comprise merely a small reading and smoking-room, with a dwelling-house of two rooms and kitchen attached. The dwelling-house might be occupied rent free by a selected member of the Society, whose wife would take care of the premises.

24. No intoxicating liquors would be allowed in the rendezvous, which would be simply a friendly meeting place for the members of the Society.

25. In the larger industrial towns good sleeping accommodation (three, six, or more beds) might be also provided at the rendezvous, where members of the Society coming to the town in search of employment could procure temporary accommodation, for not longer than one week, at a minimum charge.

26. At each rendezvous there would be kept for ready reference a complete directory of the members of the Royal Army Society that are employed or resident in the district, and all other information likely to be of assistance to soldiers on their return to civil life. The resident member of the Society, acting as caretaker, would be selected with a special view to his being referred to for information on such matters.

27. It is believed that the Royal Army Society's *local* rendezvous, with well-informed caretakers and directories to refer to, combined with the general wearing of the R.A.S. Ribbon, will prove to be the most effective machinery that can be created to aid soldiers in their pursuit of civil employment, and, instead of languishing, it is of a kind that must naturally increase in usefulness every year.

28. It may be expected that the resident military gentlemen would gladly interest themselves in these rendezvous, and would visit them frequently in order to meet with the men of their Service, and that they would thus be enabled to learn how best to promote the interests of these members, or the welfare of their families, and the advancement of their sons.

29. The effect of the fellowship and good feeling thus encouraged, and of the strong bond of union thus cemented amongst all its members, without distinction of social rank, could not confine itself to the Royal Army Society, but it must ultimately propagate and diffuse itself throughout the masses of the people, and tend to dispel many of the prejudices and misunderstandings that now ~~exist~~ between different grades of society. This is probably not the least important good that may result from the formation of a Royal Army Society.

30. Before closing this reference to the proper work of the Society, attention may be called to the advantageous use that might be made

of this influential organization on war breaking out and our army having to take the field, provided it was deemed necessary and expedient to utilize the Society for any such exceptional purpose, under special and critical circumstances.

31. At such a crisis the Royal Army Society in every county and great city would be able to give our troops a practical assurance that their wives and children should be befriended till their safe return, and that if any, unhappily, became widows or orphans, the Royal Army Society would make it a sacred duty to spare no efforts to ensure generous provision being made for them, and if the funds of the existing charitable societies for aiding soldiers and their families were unable to satisfactorily carry out this work, the Royal Army Society, under such exceptional circumstances, would only have to appeal to their county or city, and there can be little doubt that ample funds would be forthcoming to enable these societies to fulfil so sacred an obligation.

32. The organization, being limited to the area of a county or great city, would enable all the work of the Society to be carried out at all times with great economy and thoroughness.

33. In war time H.M. Government might receive valuable assistance from these influential and favourably placed Royal Army Societies in maintaining the war strength of their territorial regiments.

34. It is recommended that, to ensure all funds being applied directly to the benefit of the soldier, it should be a fixed and fundamental principle in the working of the Society that there should be no paid officials of any kind, except members of and below the grade of non-commissioned officers, who might be required for mere clerical labour and to act as caretakers. All other offices in the Royal Army Society should be purely "honorary," without fee or pecuniary benefit of any description—labour on behalf of such a society bringing its own reward and honour.

35. It must not be forgotten that this scheme for instituting a Royal Army Society is a very far-reaching and comprehensive measure, but it is felt that nothing of smaller compass can prove effective; and, moreover, it is also believed that the maintenance of H.M. army at its adequate strength by means of *voluntary enlistment, coupled with short service*, will, in the future, greatly depend on the successful working of such a Society as is now very strongly advocated.

36. The county of Lanark possesses many advantages that may tell favourably in promoting such a scheme as has been here sketched. It is a wealthy and compact industrial county, containing one-fourth of the population of all Scotland, and the high efficiency of its numerous Volunteer forces bears ample testimony to the military instincts existing throughout all classes of the industrial community.

37. The question has been asked—Will Lanarkshire grasp the opportunity, and be the county to at once promote the formation of the premier Royal Army Society, and thus do all that lies in her power to ensure the successful development of the movement throughout the United Kingdom?

38. This question has been answered in the affirmative—a print of this document having been submitted to every Deputy-Lieutenant of Lanarkshire and to members of the county military families, has, with only three exceptions (two of whom are non-resident), been returned signed and cordially approved. The heads of the several religious bodies in the county, and the Lord Provost of Glasgow, have also signed and approved of the scheme.

RUTHVEN,

*Chairman of Executive Committee for promoting  
the Royal Army Society.*

*Deputy-Lieutenants abroad who could  
not be communicated with—*

EARL OF HOPETOUN.

LORD BLYTHSWOOD.

SIR JOHN MUIR, BART.

If the work of the Royal Army Society is conducted strictly on the lines here laid down, it is, we think, quite impossible to conceive that it will in the least degree hinder the accomplishment of any work that has been taken in hand for the benefit of the British soldier.

Neither can it prove detrimental to, or clash with, any existing military society or association.

Good feeling for the soldier is, as we all know, keenly on the alert for some channel for active work, and a very useful handbook by Colonel James Gildea, entitled "The Naval and Military Funds and Institutions," shows the number and indicates the character and scope of the various organizations, thus affording another piece of evidence, if it was required, to illustrate the general regard and good will felt for soldiers.

If we consider the case of three typical societies, we think we can sufficiently indicate what effect or bearing the Royal Army Society will have in respect of the work and the general organization of every Society.

For this purpose, we first take the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association, whose objects are distinctly charitable and benevolent.

This excellent Association would, with regard to the Royal Army Society, occupy exactly the same relation as any of the hospitals, orphanages, or like institutions, and the Royal Army Society would simply bring to its notice, and solicit its attention and care for, any local cases within the county or city that seemed deserving and in special need of the services or benefits conferred by such families' association, hospital, orphanage, or kindred institution.

In this way, the Royal Army Society within each local area (whether county or city) would prove very helpful in promoting the effective and economical working of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association.

Also, as has been stated (*vide* paras. 30, 31, 32, 33, scheme), the

Royal Army Society could, in war time, but only if necessary and desired, give valuable aid to this and kindred associations in raising special funds to meet the increased strain that the income of all such agencies must then experience.

There may be many other matters in which any such association, hospital, or orphanage might consider it an advantageous course to secure the assistance of such a locally well-informed and influential Society as this Royal Army Society will be, but the work of any such institution will be wholly and absolutely distinct, and will have nothing in common with our Society, except good will.

The next class are the "employment" societies, and for our present purpose we may take the "National Association for employment of Reserve Soldiers" as the best type to represent all such agencies.

The Royal Army Society does not and cannot interfere with these employment agencies, who are doing their good and very useful work *in their own way*, and, in fact, their existence will, we know, prove most helpful to much of the work which we desire to accomplish by other methods than they use, and we also have every reason to believe that our special work will tend greatly to their advantage.

If the success of our joint labours should eventually lead to the disappearance of the unemployed soldier, these societies would perhaps find themselves temporarily in the ranks of the unemployed, but their experience would ensure that they would soon discover some great and useful field for their skill and working capacity, and in any case they would have the satisfaction of having accomplished their great work.

However, so long as the demand for soldiers in civil life does not exceed the supply, we hope to greatly assist the work which these employment societies have at heart, and there appears to be no possibility of our work proving otherwise than mutually helpful.

Lastly, we will ask you to carefully take into consideration the "Army Veterans' Association," which we are proud to recognise as the Society possessing, in great measure, many of the more promising features sketched out in the scheme for a Royal Army Society, and partially embracing the same field of work for the attainment of, to some extent, identical objects.

The Veterans' is unquestionably a very valuable association, and though only started at Chatham towards the end of 1891 under the name of the "Veterans' Association, Chatham Circle," it has, in that one area, in little more than one year, attained marked success.

The prime mover in establishing the "Veterans," and the one to whom its conception was due, was then the General Commanding the Thames District, viz., General Goodenough, who has so kindly consented to occupy the chair at this meeting.

Subject to correction from the gallant Chairman, we will mention the principal points of difference that can be observed between the Veterans' Association and the proposed Royal Army Society.

The "Army Veterans' Association" deals only with time-expired soldiers, and does not include the reserve soldier, whilst the Royal Army Society will include both.



The "Veterans" apparently is designed to work in "circles," corresponding to military administrative areas, and its management is more or less directly under official military authority, whilst the Royal Army Society works in well-established and familiar local areas, corresponding to civil administration, and its management is independent of the military departments, unless they exercise it through the Privy Council.

The "Veterans," whilst indirectly doing much to promote the civil employment of its time-expired soldiers, does not directly and actively promote this object. The Royal Army Society is designed to very specially work for this object—including the employment of the reserve soldier.

Again, it seems to us that the idea of the Veterans' Association (I hope that our Chairman will correct me if I am wrong) is to strengthen the link that binds the soldier in civil employ with his comrades serving in the army, and the main efforts of the Royal Army Society will be to assimilate and absorb the young reserve and time-expired soldier as quickly and favourably as possible into the ranks of the industrial classes, and forge a swivel to attach him to civil life, so that, turn where he will, his prospects shall be bright and hopeful.

The ribbon which the Royal Army Society hopes may be granted to its members will have the prestige that always attaches to an honour bestowed by the gracious favour of the Sovereign.

These, and other considerations to which I need not specially allude, will, we are confident, be fully considered with an open mind by yourself (General Goodenough) and all others interested, and we trust that we may rest satisfied that, to a large extent, these two societies can be mutually helpful to one another, and, being both actuated by the same unselfish and patriotic spirit, there can never arise any jealous rivalry or competition.

In bringing this paper to a close, we would remind every one of the fact that the future welfare of the deserving and faithful soldier is the matter under consideration, and in this assembly it would be superfluous to say more.

The CHAIRMAN: I have now to invite discussion. I think I may say, and I am very pleased to think it, that this admirable idea of dealing with a most important subject has been well brought before us to-night, and has received a hearty welcome at your hands. We are placed in this position. We are sitting as it were in Parliament, and this is the first reading of the Bill. I imagine that the lecturer has come here in order to invite discussion, and to elicit hints as to the management and development of such a Society as he proposes from those who are present; but we are placed in this position that we have to proceed to discuss the Bill in Committee, and to pass any part of it in third reading, all in one sitting. There are two points which, as I shall not have another opportunity, I will ask the lecturer to explain, when it comes to his turn to reply, and that is the bearing of Paragraphs Nos. 73 and 74, with reference to keeping the Royal Army Society entirely distinct from any other Society. We shall also be glad to hear some further explanations upon the Paragraph 30, which seems in a particular way to show the need of intervention, or the exercise of responsibility, on the part of the Military Authorities of this country, whereas the lecturer told us that this Society is to be governed entirely under the Privy Council, and the Military Authority is

only very indirectly referred to. I will now ask gentlemen to give us their views upon this most important subject.

Lieutenant-Colonel BAYLIS, Q.C. : I am very much pleased at this scheme. I think that we ought of all things to consider the soldier after he leaves the military service, and when he returns to civil life. I believe there can be no greater encouragement to recruits joining the army than to let them know that they will be taken care of when they leave the army. I think the army training wonderfully adapts the soldier to civil life afterwards, especially with regard to domestic service. I would rather take a man who has been in the army, and who knows the word of command, and will submit to it, and has gained that self-respect which the soldier gains, than I would take a civilian. I wish that feeling were general ; if it were so I am sure it would be a great encouragement to recruits to join the army. The lecturer has very well pointed out that we ought to consider the soldier when he returns to civil life, and he has suggested one or two expedients to attain this end. One is to look after him when he returns to civil life, and I think that it is of great importance that he should have somewhere to go to when he leaves the army. The lecturer has suggested the ribbon. Now, no one honours the ribbon which Her Majesty has been kind enough to confer on Volunteers more than myself. I believe there is a very great advantage in that distinction, not only that an officer may wear it with his uniform and civil dress, but that it is a distinction which when a man wears, and remembers that it has been conferred by the hands of Her Majesty, is an encouragement to him to maintain a steady and honourable course of conduct. I, therefore, greatly approve of that badge which a man may wear, but also on the ground that it may inspire others who see him wearing it to follow in his meritorious steps. But in these days there is something more than the ribbon which is wanted. The man wants remunerative employment. Probably the lecturer may not be aware, as he has not referred to it, that at Liverpool there is a Society established much of the same kind as he has suggested. I am very glad to be a subscriber to that Society, and to know that it is a very successful Society. I think it is called the United Service Society, but it is for soldiers and sailors who have left the army and navy.

Commander McHARDY : An employment agency ?

Lieutenant-Colonel BAYLIS : Yes. That Society keeps a register of good conduct, and of the way the men have discharged their duties, and it is a great encouragement to men, both sailors and soldiers, at Liverpool, and also to others, to see that they are looked after in civil life. After all we cannot do without money, and we must have subscribers. I am sure that the lecturer must take that into consideration, because you cannot have offices free of expense, even though they are only looked after by a pensioner and his wife. You must have funds. You must contribute out of your own pocket to the advantage of these men. I have done so in Liverpool, and I would do so in London, or anywhere where I could see any chance of improving the condition of the soldier in civil life. I think the soldier ought to have the prospect held out before him that when he leaves the army, he shall be in such position as not to degrade the army whilst wearing its uniform, by appearing as a beggar in the street. There is another point that I think should be attended to. The lecturer suggested that this Society should embrace only the army, but did not allude to the navy. We are very much indebted to the navy. We know it is the first bulwark of this country. I should like to see the navy included, and would, therefore, suggest that it should be called a Royal "United Service" Society, rather than a Royal "Army" Society. I am sure you will excuse me as an old Volunteer officer who takes a lively and deep interest in everything which concerns the army and navy, an interest which, I am bound to say, I never should have felt if I had not belonged to the Volunteer force. I hope, therefore, that my remarks will be received in the spirit in which they are intended.

The CHAIRMAN : I may explain that the Society at Liverpool is one of the branches in connection with the National Association ; it is not a separate organization.

Lieutenant-Colonel BAYLIS : But it is a successful Society, as I find by the returns which are sent to me.

Captain O'CALLAGHAN : I should like to make one observation with reference to

Paragraph 65, in which there is the statement, "The wearing of military ribbons in plain clothes may at first strike many as being a novel suggestion, quite foreign and contrary to all preconceived ideas." With reference to that I would only remind the lecturer that the wearing of miniature medals on certain occasions in evening dress has been officially sanctioned for some years, and not only is that the case, but officers are expected to wear them whenever they are invited to meet any of the Royal Family. I think that does away with that objection.

Colonel J. GILDEA (Commanding 4th Batt. Royal Warwickshire Regiment): I did not come here to take any part in these proceedings, but only to listen. The scheme is really such a large one that, without more careful perusal, I do not think I could make any remarks that could lead to any good results. I may say, however, with regard to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, which has been referred to, and which I represent, and without wishing in any way to advocate our cause here, or to blow our own trumpet, that I do claim that ours was the first attempt that has ever been made to create a great national organization throughout the country, in drawing together the civil and naval and military element under the territorial system for the benefit of the Services. We have at the present time over 500 branches and divisions represented by some 1,500 office bearers, naval and military, men on the active and retired lists, as well as the leading families in almost every county in England and Ireland. Referring to Paragraph 31 of the original prospectus of this new Society, I rather gather that the lecturer had never heard of this Association, because he suggests that at such a crisis as the breaking out of war, the Royal Army Society would look after the *wives and families* of soldiers and sailors. But from the paper just read it appears that he does not intend to swallow us up altogether, but rather looks to us for help and co-operation. All I can say is, that there is room for all, and that he may be sure of my goodwill, and the goodwill of my Association, in helping him in every way in our power so long as he does not overlap or try to take the wind out of our sails. As far as my experience goes, and it extends over a good many years, I do not set much value upon royal charters, sign manuals, blue books, or any such paraphernalia in connection with such a work. My own opinion is that it can be done much better without them. Initiating and building up organizations of this kind are much more likely to be accomplished by downright hard work and perseverance, than by having too much red-tapeism. In all such works we must, no doubt, be enthusiasts ourselves, but our enthusiasm must never cease if we are going to succeed. To tie ourselves up, however, by a royal charter, with signatures here and signatures there, and subject to the supervision of Her Majesty's Privy Council, as is proposed, is to my mind in the long run only to court disaster. I am very glad to see that this is supposed to be a "voluntary" Society. I have great faith in voluntary work for many reasons. We have worked our own Society, which as I say is the largest Association connected with the Services, altogether on the voluntary system. We have no expenses whatever of any kind except the actual money spent in printing and stationery.

The CHAIRMAN: Will you tell us something as to how your Association was first started?

Colonel GILDEA: I am afraid some one besides myself must say by whom it was initiated and how formed. You will, I think, sir, not misunderstand my silence on this point. I quite believe in the voluntary system for working Societies, especially those connected with the Services. There are plenty of officers retired, and plenty of people connected with the Services, who are only too glad to give a helping hand if they are only approached in the right way, and you will also have the great advantage of placing yourself right with the public. There is nothing about which the public are so jealous as the large amounts that are spent by almost all Societies upon secretaries, offices, clerks, and administration. I am sure nobody in this theatre who knows anything about what took place with regard to the Patriotic Fund before the Royal Commission was appointed, some ten or twelve years ago, will care very much to have a repetition of matters then brought to light, and that is one of the reasons why I rather think you are hampering and tying yourselves up by seeking a royal charter and its accompaniments.

The CHAIRMAN: I think I am right in saying that you personally communicated with all the Lords Lieutenant up and down the country.

Colonel GILDEA: Yes. The first thing I did in commencing this work eight years ago was to issue a circular to every Lord Lieutenant in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. That I made the foundation of the work.

Mr. G. ARNOLD (Mayor of Gravesend, D.L., F.S.A.): I venture to follow the last speaker, because I have the honour of subscribing to that excellent Society of which Colonel Gildea has spoken, and which he so worthily represents, and because I cannot see that it in any way interferes with the operations of this larger undertaking, and I hope the latter will come into fruition. The Society represented by the gallant Colonel is more of a charitable and eleemosynary (but a most excellent) institution, whereas this, sir, if its outlines are perpetuated, addresses itself to the much larger and more statesmanlike view of what should be done in regard to such an institution as the British Army, when it is overtaken by circumstances for which it is in no way responsible, and which in the same manner may overtake the State itself. A judicious statesman when he finds that the balance of political power is swaying from one direction to another, sets about the reconstruction of the administrative machine, and so here men with the same kind of prescience as you have shown, look about and say, "How can we ameliorate those social conditions which are bearing so hard upon the army?" Some persons have said, "Oh, it is a mere question of money; John Bull must undo his purse-strings and shell out more." No doubt he will have to do so, but that by no means exhausts the considerations of the question which ought to engage a General looking thoroughly into and comprehending the problem before him; for example, the amelioration of the social condition of the men, the care to be shown for them, the institutions which are erected for their comfort and improvement and their moral well-being, all tend to shed some little lustre upon their families, so that people come to say, "A soldier! why a soldier need not necessarily be a disreputable character; now he is a member of an honourable profession, which makes itself visible in various ways, he has got clubs, he has got associates," and when they find circles of "army veterans" going about with a little decoration, people of their own order especially will look up to them with a feeling of pride. The man is a veteran, and there you touch the mainspring of the power of dealing with men. You can at once control a man if you can touch the button of his self-respect, and he is responsive to the touch; then that man is capable of being improved and raised. It is because so many of our men fall into their bad habits, and have lost their self-respect, that you have had to throw up the task as one that baffles you. I understand, sir, in the plan you have laid down here (in banding together the members of the army, and showing that they are not ashamed to belong to such an imperial and successful institution as the British army has shown itself to be), that you are taking the right step to lift up and make that profession more valued than before. What have you had to contend with in the past? You have had the very lowest of the low, those who were really little more than animals (physical strength in common with quadrupeds), and you have had the higher classes, and, perhaps, the upper middle class, but the middle class, which is the great backbone of England, you have not touched. In proportion, however, as you ameliorate in this judicious way and elevate the condition of the men in the army, so you will force an attitude of respect towards that army, the profession will be improved, people will look to it as a means of combining sufficient to keep them with a sensible amount of honour and respect, and so you will be making up for that outlay which otherwise would arise if you had to treat it entirely as a pecuniary matter, and endeavoured upon a mere money basis to outbid those leviathan trades and manufactures which have such large and rapidly increasing means at their disposal for competing with you in the labour market. I have never heard of this scheme until to-day; but as the Mayor of the largest town in the Thames Valley, whilst you, sir, held the office of General of the Thames District, I had the honour of standing by your side when you inaugurated the North Kent Branch of the National Reserve Association, which I am pleased to say, notwithstanding that you have left, has not fallen to the ground, but has improved. I had the honour again of standing by your side when you established the Chatham

Circle of the Veterans, and I must congratulate you very much upon the progress which these two movements have made; and this which we have before us to-day is really an imperial extension of these excellent movements. I would conclude by commending this subject very earnestly to the favourable consideration of my fellow auditors here present.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. GRUBB (R.A., ret.): This paper has given me information about a subject on which I was very ignorant before. I believe if it is circulated throughout the country, it will be taken up by all the officers of the army, and those who have left the army, because it aims at promoting the benefit and welfare of the soldiers after they leave the army, and improving their social status. There are one or two things in the paper that I should like to remark upon. First, I observe that it is contemplated to give the medal and ribbon to men of over three years' service who have served well. Now, supposing these men did not continue to serve well after having gained the medal, is it to be withdrawn from them? I happen to have had something to do with the administration of the Poor Law, having been on the Woolwich Board of Guardians for several years, and there used to come before it a number of pensioners and men who had left the army. Those who come to seek for poor law relief from no fault of their own are generally able to produce their discharges, but those who we know from experience and inquiry have been to various unions have generally lost them, showing that their character has not been of the highest order. If a case of that kind comes before a board of guardians, should the badge which it is contemplated to bestow be withdrawn? The scheme, no doubt, is a comprehensive and far-reaching one, but it will mean a great deal of cash to keep it going, and you could not start the various houses, beds, and so forth, unless you have good support behind. It will not do for an officer, or anyone else, to rent a house and then to find that he alone is liable for the rent after, perhaps, a year. He must have a fund to fall back upon, and cash at his disposal to pay the pensioner and his wife for looking after the house. I believe there has been a Society of this kind (for the relief of soldiers' families) already established, and I should be very sorry indeed to see it hampered or swallowed up by the Society of which we have heard this afternoon. I personally do not work the Soldiers' and Sailors' Association, but my wife has been a committee member of it for many years, and I can testify to the excellent work that it has done for those who are hard up, and who have left the army.

Lieutenant-General Sir CHARLES FRASER, G.C., K.C.B.: I am afraid, sir, I am not in a position to speak on this subject, although you have kindly asked me to do so. I can only say, having been a soldier all my life, that I am confident that everyone connected with the army must appreciate the exertions of Commander Mellardy, and the promoters of this scheme. I wish them well with all my heart, and I wish that I were able to speak upon the subject, but I am not.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. RIDOUT: It struck me on reading the paper that the lecturer was not aware of the fact that a similar Society to the proposed Royal Army Society has been established by General Goodenough, and is known as the Army Veterans' Association. It also occurred to me that the lecturer was hardly aware that in addition to the Army Veterans' Association, there are other well-established Societies throughout the kingdom for the benefit of the soldier. Referring to Paragraph 31, with regard to assisting soldiers' wives when the husband is on service, I do not think the lecturer could have been aware that Colonel Gilden's organization, viz., the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, was in existence. This organization is complete, perfect in every detail, and has branches throughout the United Kingdom, the Mediterranean, as well as in India. I have been connected with it four or five years, and I know how well it works. I can give one instance. When H.M.S. "Serpent" was lost off the Spanish coast, so complete was the organization, that within twenty-four hours the families of those who had lost their lives were found out and relieved; five hundred pounds having been granted from the funds for that purpose. I do not think that any Royal Army Society could manage an Association better than that.

The CHAIRMAN: The facts are that the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association

for some years was not directly represented in Scotland for some particular reasons. Recently Scotland has returned, I may venture to say, to the fold, and now the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association will again operate in Scotland.

Lieutenant-Colonel RIDOUT: Then as regards sleeping accommodation for the districts, that is also provided for. There are fifty-five large establishments in different parts of the kingdom, and I can speak especially for the establishment at Chatham, where, in fact, there are two. There is one which I take interest in, that made up no less than 14,000 beds last year, a place called the "Welcome;" and there are many of these Welcomes throughout the kingdom under admirable management. As regards the formation of the Veteran Society, with which I have had some slight connection, it is well to understand that the primary object of that Society was to unearth the old soldier, to bring him to the front, to let the world see that the old soldier was really a reliable and respectable individual. Until this movement was started at Chatham, we did not know that there were half-a-dozen old soldiers in the whole place. There were several men at Chatham from my own regiment who had known me from a lad. When this Association was started, they came forward and spoke to me. I said, "Why did you not come before?" "Oh, sir," they said, "we did not like to presume. We have stood by you dozens of times at cricket and football, but we never dared to speak to you before." Not only that, but we found comrades in the same regiment living close together who did not know each other's existence until we established the Veteran Association. It has done an infinity of good. Old soldiers no longer conceal the fact that they have been in the Service; now when they go to the Paymaster for their pension they do not any longer say, "Plain envelope, if you please." Formerly they did not like the idea of being considered pensioners, and they requested that instead of being addressed as "Army Pensioner," they should have a plain envelope, but now all is changed. You now see these old soldiers mixing together, wearing the ribbon, of which I have brought a specimen, and they meet daily at the Veterans' Club just established. This ribbon is the badge of the Army Veteran Association, and is General Goodenough's idea. It represents a piece of the Union Jack, as it were, torn off. The ribbon, which is unique in design, has been registered, and no one can get it except by applying through me. It has been received with very great favour by all the army veterans, and the Army and Navy Veteran Association of Canada asked me some time ago if they might be allowed to adopt the same ribbon as their badge. Permission was given to them, and it is now to be seen not only in Toronto and Halifax, but in other large towns throughout Canada where the organization exists. I think all we want on the part of the Royal Army Society is that they shall support existing institutions. There are many organizations well established that have hitherto languished for want of funds, and of public sympathy. If the Royal Army Society by any action on their part could bring these existing institutions to the front, and get public support for them, I think they would be fulfilling all that was desired. It would be a mistake to keep down the Army Veteran Association by having a rival Society. Let the Royal Army Society assist the parent Society, the Army Veteran, and help to extend its circles throughout the kingdom. At present we have only got the Chatham circle, and although we had one or two promises in other districts, no one yet has given it any support. I am quite sure that if in large centres, like Birmingham, Manchester, and London, circles were established, we should soon become a growing and flourishing body, and the public would see that we were seeking for the real good of the soldier and for his recognition.

The CHAIRMAN: I might draw your attention to the paragraph of the lecture which attributes to the Veterans' Association the desire "to strengthen the link that binds the soldier in civil employ with his comrades serving in the army." That was the point to which I wished to direct your attention because the answer would come better from you than from me.<sup>1</sup>

Brigade Surgeon F. P. STAPLES: It seems to me that some of the last speakers

<sup>1</sup> Lieutenant-Colonel Ridout explained at this point that a declared object of the "Veterans" was to weld a link with the old officer, not with existing soldiers.

have been very much impressed with fear that their Societies would be absorbed. As I understand Commander McHardy, his scheme is meant to form, as he called it, a swirl or social link to connect the army reserve with civil life. I think that is especially needed. While I was stationed at Chester, some years ago, I had the opportunity of seeing something of the army reserve, having, as medical inspector, to go round the district. I saw many old soldiers, and made inquiries as to how they were getting on. I found that Messrs. Laird, of Birkenhead, employed them very largely, and were favourable to the idea of employing them from patriotic motives. The Chief Constable of Macclesfield also employed them very largely in the police, but, with those two exceptions, I think, they were allowed to shift for themselves pretty well; and I take it altogether they had a rather hard time of it. A good many of them found employment, no doubt, but if a Society, such as that proposed, had been in existence, I think they would have had a better chance of finding an entry into civil life. My next experience was at Brighton after I left the Service. There was a man there that I had known very well in the Royal Artillery at Aldershot, an assistant to a riding master, an excellent man, and one of the best riders I have ever known in the army. When he was a non-commissioned officer he took his discharge, having saved a little money. He came to Brighton, and started a tobacconist's shop in a street where, to my certain knowledge, there were a good many other such shops, and in about six months the whole of his savings were gone, and he was stranded. I think if there had been a Society like Commander McHardy has proposed, that man would have been able to ask advice in a large town like Brighton, where he was a stranger, and would, perhaps, have been better advised with regard to the investment of his savings. These may be comparatively small matters in their way, but I think they tend to show that the lecturer's very far-reaching scheme is most especially needed with reference to the army reserve.

Captain G. C. SWINTON, Highland Light Infantry: As a regimental officer who has had some experience in the working of a regimental association in the district in which Commander McHardy began the work, may I be permitted to say that the gentlemen who have spoken seem most of them rather to have lost sight of the crux of the matter, which I take it is the honour of the ribbon? Now, I know, speaking of the old soldier, or at least of Scotchmen, that the thing some of them quarrel with as regards these ordinary associations, is the idea of the acceptance of charity. I do not think they would quarrel with the idea of wearing a ribbon by means of which we should recognise in civilian garb those who have been our best soldiers, and are now among our most respectable citizens. It would be granted by the Queen, and they would be proud to show it. The bad lots we have always with us, and they vaunt themselves as soldiers; those who succeed, the world knows only as civilians. To give an instance of how they drop out of sight. Only the other day, I found out that a man whom I knew well by sight, and who lived within four miles of our dépôt, a fine-looking respectable man, and a large employer of labour, had been pioneer corporal in my own regiment. He had left soon after the Mutiny, he knew nobody now serving, and nobody knew him. Yet he was a keen enough old soldier to travel to Edinburgh for our regimental gathering, and he came with four medals on his breast. That is the class of man that a royal army ribbon would parade as a credit to the Service. If the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge led the way, and if every officer and ex-officer when in mufti, be it frock coat, or evening clothes, or shooting clothes, if every man who left the Service with a good character wore the ribbon, then we should show that the army breeds others besides loafers and ne'er-do-weels. It seems to me that the whole crux of the matter is the ribbon.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to give the lecturer an opportunity of speaking upon this point of the ribbon. There are one or two things to be considered. One is modesty about wearing it, which has been very well disposed of by one gentleman, who called attention to miniature medals being more commonly worn now than formerly; and another is that in conferring the ribbon you give a badge of character, and might, perhaps, cast the reflection of bad character upon others who do not wear the ribbon. That is one of the difficulties to be contended with, that a man wearing the ribbon rather puts somebody else in the shade, and when

it comes to be done upon a very large scale it will be one of the difficulties to be dealt with when you are deciding upon whom the ribbon should be conferred.

Colonel C. G. SLADE (Commandant School of Musketry): I gathered from a previous speaker that a ribbon is already issued to the Army Veterans.

The CHAIRMAN: The rules were very carefully drawn up, and the representative Committee of the Veterans can refuse to admit a man into their Society unless he is of good repute.

Colonel SLADE: Would not the ribbon issued by this Society rather clash with the ribbon already existing in the Army Veteran Association?

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think we have got to that point yet.

Colonel SLADE: I should not like to throw any cold water upon the suggestion, in fact, I think the idea of the establishment of a Royal Army Society is an admirable one, if it can be thoroughly carried out. We must, however, bear in mind that this has been started, and very thoroughly gone into, by one county only; my fear is that you may not get every county in the kingdom, with all the Lords Lieutenant and Deputy Lieutenants and the organizing machinery set forth in the prospectus, to take it up with the same thoroughness as has been done by the one county of Lanark. That was a point that was not touched upon by the lecturer for obvious reasons. You want two things to make a Royal Army Society a grand success: you want, in the first place, enthusiasm all over the kingdom, and, in the next place, you want, as was said by another speaker, a good round sum of money.

Major-General MITFORD: I should like to know how the lecturer proposes to prevent people who are not entitled to wear the ribbon from wearing it, because at the present time you can go and buy the ribbon for any medal you like at the stores, and put it on. There is nothing to prevent your wearing it, if you choose, except your own good feeling. That seems to be a difficulty.

Lieutenant-Colonel RIDOUT: The ribbon of the Army Veteran Association can only be supplied through the executive officer of the Association. You cannot go to a shop and buy it. That is our protection.

Commander McHARDY: I have to thank every one who has commented upon this scheme for the great assistance that they have rendered to us. I do not think there have been any criticisms raised that have not been fully considered by the Committee, and if the objections have not been met in the paper it is wholly my fault, because there has not been one single thing mentioned this afternoon that the scheme, as understood by us, does not entirely meet. The paragraphs to which General Goodenough kindly drew attention—73 and 74—are supposed to conflict with some part of the scheme, but I do not quite see how. Those paragraphs point to the necessity of not considering it wise or expedient to bring the soldier in civil employ into intimate contact and association with the soldier who is on active service and the various institutions that such soldier is connected with. The Army Society proposes to have only members who are of assured good army character. Supposing, for the sake of economy, you establish your rendezvous at some institute. You do not deprive the less worthy soldier of the use of the institute. You do not say that you will not allow him to come and improve himself in the institute, because the institutes are used to a very great extent for the purpose of bringing good influences to bear upon men who require such good influence. Now any such a connection would entirely mar much of the work of the Royal Army Society. We do not wish our members to mix *compulsorily* with anybody excepting themselves. They are civilians, and we look upon them as civilians. They have rendered their good period of service to Her Majesty, and they have a perfect right to be left entirely free of military employment and military associations. There are undoubtedly a large majority who would enjoy sharing everything with their former comrades, but we want to get *everybody* of good conduct, whether they wish to continue their connection with the army or whether they do not wish to do so, and for that reason, amongst others, we particularly wish it to be understood that the Royal Army Society, as to its administration, its funds, and everything connected with it, is to be kept entirely distinct from other Societies. I do not know whether it was right to make the suggestion, but unquestionably the proposal that the Royal Army Society should, *in a serious crisis*, come forward and



assist to raise funds for other Societies might justify the impression that we were going to do their work. Now, if they object to our raising money for them, then we certainly will not raise money, but that is the only way in which we propose to meddle with any other Society. I thought that this was made sufficiently clear when I said that every charitable or benevolent Society that assisted soldiers by means of charity would be treated by the Royal Army Society as any other charity is treated, whether an orphanage or a hospital. It is not a case of rivalry; there is and can be no rivalry, for the Royal Army Society will occupy a higher plane. Colonel Baylis referred to the Employment Society at Liverpool. That is a branch of the National Association which I dealt with in the paper, and, as I thought, sufficiently clearly. The National Association is for the employment of discharged soldiers, and it has devoted itself entirely to that work. We think that the establishment of a Royal Army Society on the footing that we propose will facilitate that work very much, but we do not intend to undertake it by their methods; we do not intend to have anything to do with keeping a register of unemployed soldiers. We may ask the National Association and others to allow us to make copies of their registers, but the duty will not be interfered with; it will lie still with the National Society. Colonel Baylis I do not think understood why this Society does not *at present* include the navy. Perhaps it was partly for that reason it was thought a naval officer might with advantage introduce the subject here for discussion. The navy, I may be allowed to say, and I hope it will not be taken offensively, does not at the present moment require lifting up in the same sense that the soldier does. The sailor is very much better circumstanced. As a matter of fact, you do not find that the Queen's sailor has difficulty in getting good employment; he can generally get it, and the opinion of the promoters of this Society was that, while it might benefit the Society to bring the sailor into it at the present time, it certainly would not reflect any extra honour on the sailor. But it has not been lost sight of, because, in addressing the proper authorities and personages on the subject of the ribbon, which, of course, is not a matter for our selection, it was asked that the future including of the navy in the same Society and making it a Royal United Service Society should be considered, as probably the two Services might, with advantage, use two distinct, but somewhat corresponding, ribbons. Captain O'Callaghan mentioned the fact of persons wearing military medals in plain clothes. We were quite aware that the desire for officers wearing these military decorations is one that has been expressed from quarters where it might certainly have been expected that it would have been most readily attended to: but we believe it is the experience of a good many people that army officers, as a rule, do not generally wear miniature medals, even in plain evening dress; they do not like to do so. One man has six medals, another man has none, and it may be thought that the man who has six medals makes himself rather conspicuous. I pointed out in the paper that there would be nothing of that kind, that there was no question of one man being superior to the other: they would be all alike. With regard to the remarks that Colonel Gildea was kind enough to make, I may say that his book has been our standard work of reference in preparing the scheme for this Society. We were able, in his book, to find information which we could not get anywhere else. It is published by Colonel Gildea, but he seems to have entirely mistaken the view of the promoters of this Army Society. It cannot do the work that the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Associations are doing, and all those other 150 societies; but what we can do, or imagine we can do, is to create a new class of society, of which one only exists at the present moment—"The Veterans;" and when Colonel Gildea brings out the next edition of his book, I would suggest to him that he should, under a new heading styled "Honour Societies," first name the Veterans' Association Chatham Circle, and secondly the Royal Army Society, as Societies which really exist in order to transmit and maintain the honour earned by faithful army service, and for that purpose only. That will meet some of the objections brought forward by those who think that the question of finance is a very serious one. Finance is a serious question to Lanark, because the Royal Charter, which is not thought very much of by Colonel Gildea, will cost money, and the Parliamentary Statute to protect the ribbon will cost money, and this, unless the Government see it reasonable to assist us, will all fall upon the county

of Lanark. They will have to obtain the charter for the whole kingdom, and any county may at any future time take advantage of the charter without any further expense. A statute will be required to protect the ribbon, and such a one as to indict criminal penalties on any person who infringes it; for we consider that nothing short of such penalties would prevent people, for their own evil purposes, making an improper use of the ribbon. How it is to be done is a matter of detail, which will have to be considered when the rules are framed. It is not my place to suggest what the Governing Body should do, but they may arrange that the Executive Council shall meet once a month, or less often, and shall have power to strike any names off the roll, if they think fit; they may have a quarterly or other meeting of Governors to consider any case remitted to them by the Executive Council, or to hear the appeal of any person who thought he had been hardly treated. It is not, I fancy, proposed that, simply because a man is unsteady, he should be deprived of a ribbon which he has once obtained by his good army record; but it is intended that, for an offence that would cause an officer's name to be removed from the Navy or Army List, a man should be liable to be taken off the roll of the Royal Army Society. A royal charter is considered to be a very valuable and necessary document for us to have, because it will protect the status of the Society for all time. There is no question of signatures being wanted, and that sort of thing. A certain form has to be gone through, and if Her Majesty and the Privy Council think fit, the charter will be granted, and will remain in force as long as our present constitution lasts, viz., till Doomsday. The Patriotic Fund was one of our warning beacons. No doubt that fund pointed to the terrible disadvantage of a large scheme, started in a hurry, for raising money without any local organization or connection with a fixed body having a local knowledge to advise as to its distribution. We think that the Royal Army Society, with its separate council and corporation, responsible only for its own work in each county and each great city, will prevent the chance of anything such as has happened in the case of the Patriotic Fund. If we were at war to-morrow, and it were required to raise large funds, no better machinery could be devised for the purpose than the Royal Army Society, not only to raise the funds and disburse them to the various societies required to administer them, but the governing bodies of the Royal Army Society would retain the necessary confidence required to make the money flow in, in far greater sums than even was the case with the Royal Patriotic Fund.

Colonel GILDEA: But into your Society and not into the others; into your Society and out of ours.

Commander McHARDY: Undoubtedly largely into ours, but for your use. The Royal Army Society does not require it; it does not cost anything to transmit honour. We think for our own purposes it may be advisable to have a few small rendezvous, and that is the only expense that will be incurred. We think that in large industrial centres it is absolutely necessary to make some provision, so that when a young soldier, say from India, with no knowledge of our civil life, comes back to a large industrial town he may be put in a position to protect himself, and not simply be as a young inexperienced man going into civil life, even more helpless than a boy of fourteen who has been brought up in civil life. It would make him independent of the people who might take advantage of him. It would enable him to meet with one or two friends, and we think would be of great assistance to him. There is no expense worth mentioning in connection with these few small rendezvous, or that will have to be incurred for any purpose to keep the Royal Army Society going, and the Royal Army Society has no intention of raising money specially, unless it is asked to do so by other Societies.

Colonel GILDEA: War breaks out: you make an appeal to the country, and I make an appeal to the country; what will the country think?

Commander McHARDY: They may think it better to give it to our Royal Army Society, but, as I said before, *for your use*.

The CHAIRMAN: I am really afraid that we cannot proceed to the second reading, and we can hardly pass this through committee to-night. We shall have to conclude all the same.

Commander McHARDY: Colonel Gildea asks what will be done? The Royal Army Society would not move for the purpose for which the Soldiers' and Sailors'

Families Association exists—it would not move in the direction of obtaining funds for that purpose without the special request of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association. I have to thank you all and everyone very much.

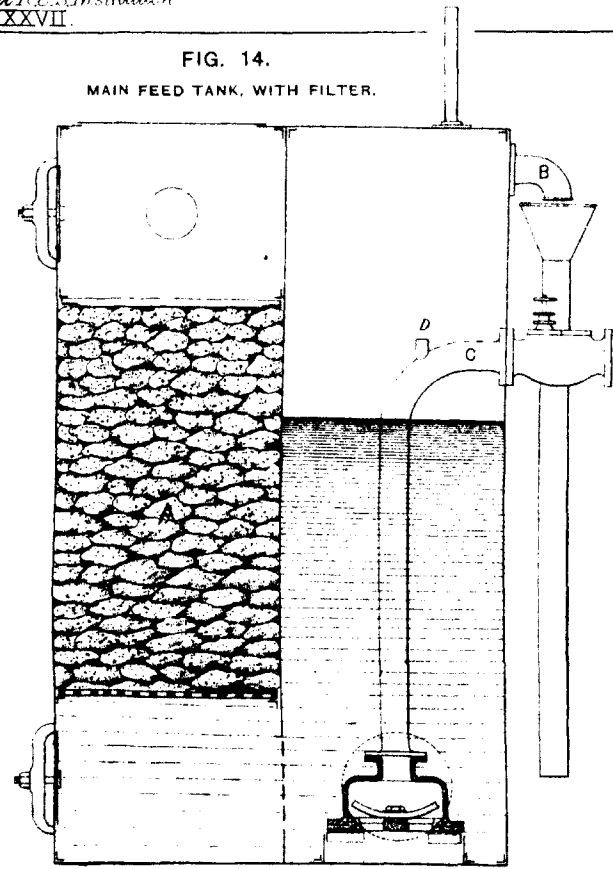
The CHAIRMAN: The scheme we have had before us seems to have undergone a good deal of progressive study. From what I can judge of the two papers that have been circulated, this progressive study is rather of a marked character, and things have been put in the second paper that were not in the first. I only allude to that in order to emphasize this remark that such a project requires much study, particularly with regard to the form of government proposed, before it can be safely launched upon the world. At the same time I wish to emphasize the welcome that is extended in this room to the adoption of the scheme in its general scope. I think it is a great mistake to try and cast all schemes of this kind into one mould. This has come from Scotland, and Scotland has its own peculiar views and institutions and so forth, and it is very natural that a Society of this kind should be somewhat different to one promoted in the South of England, such as the Army Veterans' to which allusion has been made. I think Captain O'Callaghan was a little misunderstood. His point was that just as we have overcome the reluctance to wear miniature medals in the evening, so we might overcome the reluctance to the wearing of a ribbon by such an Army Society.

Captain O'CALLAGHAN: I mentioned that it has been officially sanctioned; that is my point.

The CHAIRMAN: And practically adopted. The general advantage of the scheme in its tending to develop the voluntary system in England is a feature of great importance, as was touched upon by the Mayor of Gravesend in his observations. The fact of there being more than one scheme started about the country to endeavour to achieve this object of popularizing the army is a proof, to my mind, that the "psychological moment," as the French writers call it, has arrived for getting something done. It seems to me that our English method is that a plan crops up here and a plan crops up there, and then after these have gone on for some time we come to learn more about the subject, and we mould those plans into one, and perhaps establish something upon a better footing than we should have done if we had endeavoured to start full fledged at the first outset. I understand that one great feature of this Army Society, as to its management, is to work through existing organizations; it starts with the Lords Lieutenant and the Deputy Lieutenants, who at present are not overburdened with duties, and on the basis of that existing organization it proceeds. But still I cannot help thinking that on the whole a good deal has to be done in defining more precisely the methods of government of such a Society. My own view, if the lecturer will allow me to say so, has been all along that such a Royal Army Society should aim at occupying the highest position of all Military Societies, that it should recognize each and all of the other Societies, whether charitable or otherwise, which work in connection with the army, co-operate with them and promote them, and put their clients—the men who have served in the army—in the way of benefiting by them. If its promoters adopt that as their platform they will, I think, achieve very good and salutary results. I will now propose a hearty vote of thanks to Commander McHardy for the pains he has taken in drawing up in such an admirable manner the scheme which he has brought before us to-night.

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FIG. 14.  
MAIN FEED TANK, WITH FILTER.



- a. Sponge filter.
- b. Overflow to bilge.
- c. Overflow to reserve feed tanks.
- d. Air holes.

FIG. 15.  
EDMISTON FILTER FOR MARINE BOILERS.  
VERTICAL SECTION.

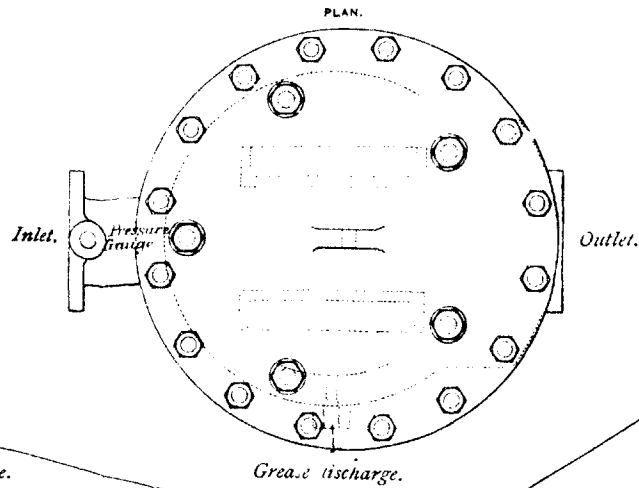
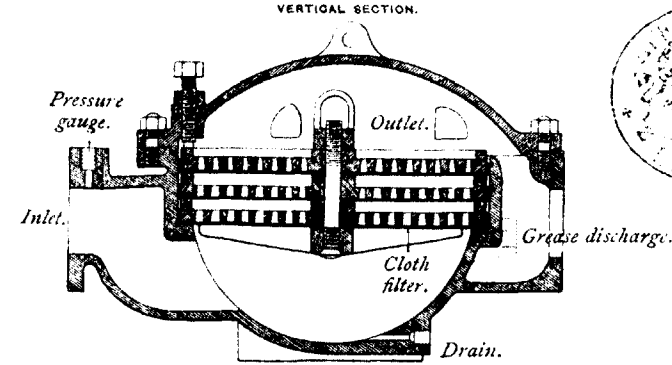


FIG. 17.  
ARRANGEMENT OF TWO FILTERS  
TO FEED PIPE.

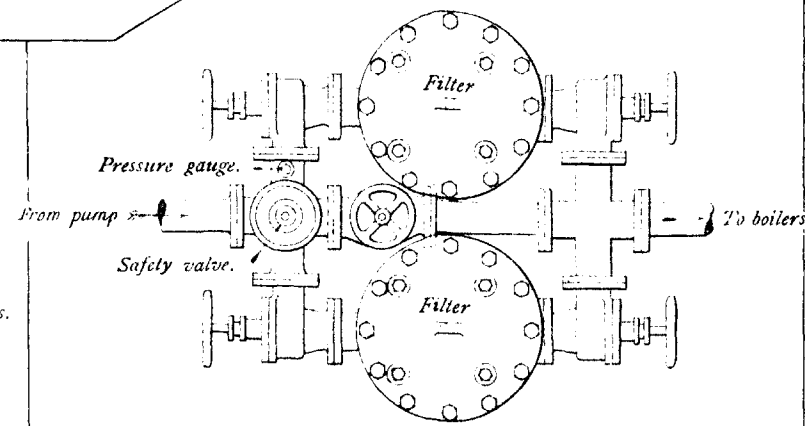
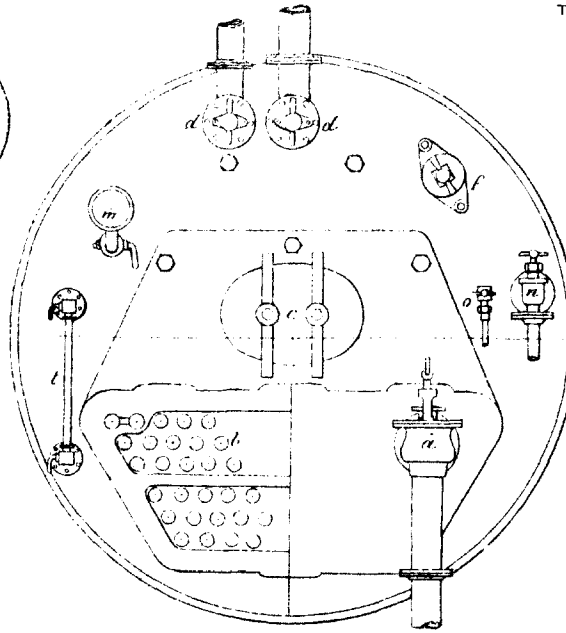
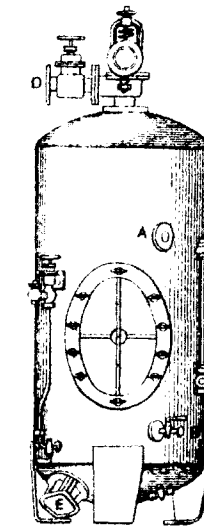


FIG. 18.  
THE "WEIR" EVAPORATOR.



- a. Steam inlet valve.
- b. Heating tubes.
- c. Manhole door.
- d. Steam stop valves.
- f. Safety valve.
- t. Water gauge glass.
- r. Blow out valve.

FIG. 19.  
THE "KIRKALDY" EVAPORATOR.



- a. Steam inlet to spiral heating tubes.
- b. Outlet to condensed steam from heater.
- c. Outlet valve for steam generated by heater.
- e. Outlet for deposits.
- m. Pressure gauge.
- n. Feed valve.
- o. Brine valve.

FIG. 20.  
THE "YARYAN" EVAPORATOR.

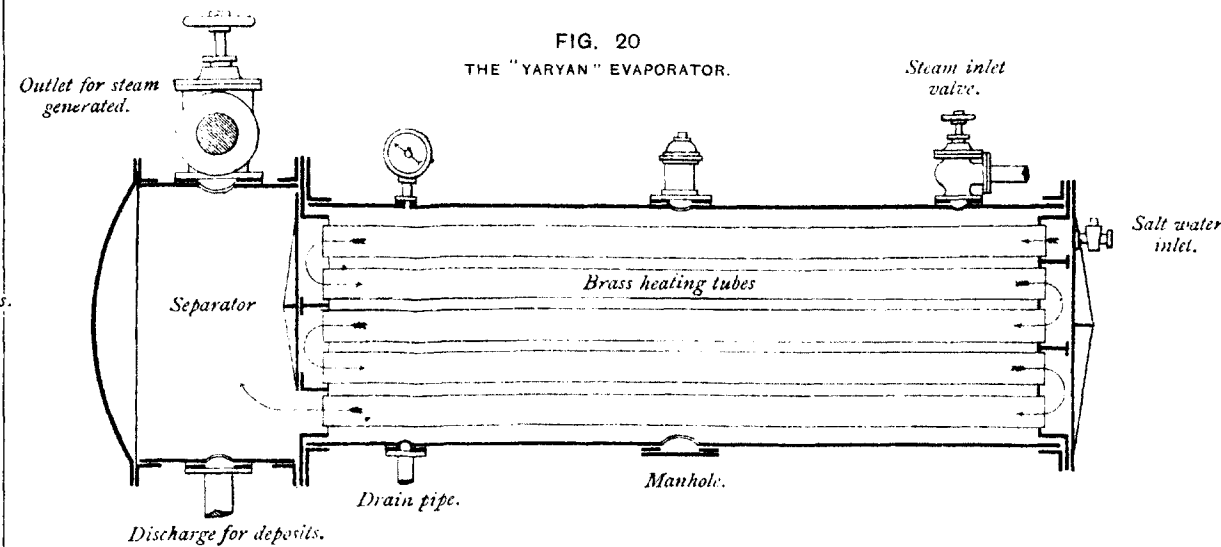
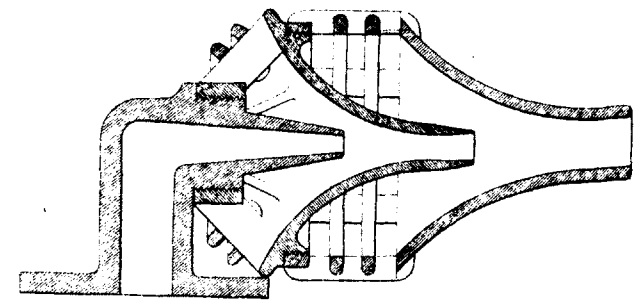


FIG. 21.

WATER CIRCULATORS FOR BOILERS "WEIR TYPE."

DETAILS OF CIRCULATOR



ARRANGEMENT OF CIRCULATOR ON BOILER

